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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 788
By Phelan

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Walter Kilzer on his induction to the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to recognize those outstanding individuals who, through their hard work and dedication, have excelled in the realm of athletics and have positively impacted the lives of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Mr. Walter Kilzer, who was recently inducted into the 2002 Class of the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kilzer received this honor at the Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon held in the James Union Building on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a native of Trenton, Walter Kilzer was an outstanding athlete, earning four letters in basketball and football at Peabody High School and playing on the State Tournament Basketball Team in 1939; and

WHEREAS, after completing high school, Mr. Kilzer earned a scholarship to Vanderbilt University, where he lettered in football and basketball in 1942; and

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WHEREAS, as the Second World War escalated, Mr. Kilzer joined the Officer Training Program and transferred to Georgia Tech; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed an illustrious football career at Georgia Tech where he played for legendary Coach Bobby Dodd and played in the 1944 Sugar Bowl; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from Georgia Tech, Mr. Kilzer accepted the position of Head Coach for the football and basketball teams at Peabody High School in 1947; and

WHEREAS, Coach Kilzer diligently served as head football coach until his retirement in 1978 having compiled a remarkable record during his tenure at Peabody High School; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement, he served as the Director of Community Education and coached junior high football until 1981; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Coach Kilzer resumed full-time coaching duties as he accepted a position coaching the junior high football team at the University School of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Coach Kilzer became the head coach of the University School of Jackson's high school football team, where he served until his retirement in 1988; and

WHEREAS, throughout his 44-year coaching career, Walter Kilzer served his community with acumen and alacrity, earning the unbridled respect of his peers, players, and their parents alike; and

WHEREAS, known as the "Dean of Football" in West Tennessee, the longevity of Coach Kilzer's remarkable career can be directly attributed to his tremendous love for young people and the game of football; and

WHEREAS, his outstanding and exemplary career has inspired thousands of players and coaches to embody the qualities of character, integrity, sportsmanship, and teamwork in their athletic, academic, and personal lives; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, Walter Kilzer is fortunate to share love and companionship with his loving wife, Dot; and

WHEREAS, they are the proud parents of two sons, Bobby Dodd Kilzer and Thomas Reginald Kilzer, both of whom played football for their father; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Kilzer are the adoring grandparents of five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, a fellow coach once stated, "Walter Kilzer would help a young person or a fellow coach in any way; I can't tell you how great an impact he has had on the lives of his peers and players"; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career, Coach Walter Kilzer has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his student-athletes to reach their potential; he exemplifies the sterling character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor Mr. Walter Kilzer on his outstanding career in athletics and congratulate him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.